



July 2018

Dear Friend,

Congratulations on your decision to run as a candidate for the state legislature.

While on the campaign trail, I'm certain you will hear about a range of important issues, including some very real economic challenges facing working families in our state.

A Federal Reserve Bank report released in May shows 40% of people cannot afford an unexpected \$400 expense<sup>1</sup>. Meanwhile, poverty rates are highest across the state for children, and 47% of single mothers with children under the age of five in New Hampshire live below the poverty line.<sup>2</sup>

If elected, the decisions you make will impact the ability of families across our state to make ends meet and thrive. We need leaders who are committed to building an economy that works for everyone.

The Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy is a state based effort working for smart policies that increase the financial security of New Hampshire families and make our communities and economy stronger. We have 26,000 supporters across New Hampshire and look forward to working with you to craft solutions to build a family-friendly economy.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you are considering introducing legislation related to family-friendly economic policies or have questions about these issues, please contact me at 603-867-4433 or [Amanda@familyfriendlyeconomy.org](mailto:Amanda@familyfriendlyeconomy.org).

For a Prosperous Future,  
Amanda Sears  
Director

1. Report on the Economic Wellbeing of U.S. Households in 2017, May 2018, <https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2018-economic-well-being-of-us-households-in-2017-dealing-with-unexpected-expenses.htm>

2. New Hampshire Early Care and Education Market Rate 2016 Survey, <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/cdb/documents/2016market-rate-survey-summary.pdf>



2018 Candidate Questionnaire  
Please complete by July 30, 2018

Save time! Fill out our online version at [www.familyfriendlyeconomy.org](http://www.familyfriendlyeconomy.org) or return by mail to:  
Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy, 114 North Main St, Concord NH 03301.

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Every New Hampshire family deserves a fair shot at the American dream. Rising costs, wages that haven't keep up with inflation, and outdated workforce policies have made this dream unattainable for too many working families.

- 1) 69% of New Hampshire children under the age of six have all available parents in the labor force. Working people often are balancing work while caring for children and aging parents, however 2/3 of our workforce lack paid leave to care for a family member.

Do you support creating a family and medical leave insurance program funded by employee payroll deductions to ensure all working people in New Hampshire have access to partial, temporary wage replacement when they need to take time out from work to care for themselves or a family member who is sick or recovering?

YES  NO

Comments: Only if it is funded by consent and not created through state coercion. As a voluntarist, I believe in consensual solutions and know aggression always brings unintended consequences.

- 2) 40% of New Hampshire's workforce lack access to even a single paid sick day.

Do you support requiring employers to provide workers the ability to earn paid sick days to use for themselves or to care for a sick family member?

YES  NO  I am against coercion, which is what a  
Comments: "requirement" is. All benefits should be attained  
through market-based means like unions and publicity.

- 3) Child care has eclipsed rent as the single biggest budget item for families with young children. The average annual cost of infant care in our state is \$11,810 per year. This expense simply is unaffordable for too many parents who often feel forced to leave the work force due to the high cost of child care – further exacerbating our state's workforce shortage. Scholarships for child care assistance are an effective way to make child care more affordable for parents who choose to work.

Do you support increased funding for child care assistance to working families?

YES  NO  Ending the coercive state would allow  
Comments: more parents to stay home and start  
their own businesses since state taxes  
and regulations would no longer disadvantage them.

- 4) Working evenings, weekends, and variable hours is common, especially in retail, janitorial, health and food service sectors where many low-income parents find employment. Predictability of scheduling is important to workers who need to make arrangements for care of children or aging parents, as well as those who balance multiple part-time jobs to make ends meet.

Do you support requiring employers to release work schedules to hourly employees at least one week in advance?

YES  NO  See answer for #2  
Comments:

- 5) New Hampshire eliminated its minimum wage in 2011. Despite having a higher than average cost of living, workers here face the same wage floor as workers in Alabama and Mississippi, the federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hour. The lowest wage workers (those making less than \$12/hour) are mostly adult women and nearly half work full time.

Do you support establishing a minimum wage in New Hampshire of \$15/hour?

YES  NO  
Comments: The minimum wage hurts the very people it is intended to help. It should be abolished entirely.

- 6) The cost of higher education is leading many young professionals to start their careers deeply in debt with the average college graduate carrying \$39,400 of student loan debt. Outstanding student loan debt has surpassed the amount households owe on auto loans, home equity loans and credit cards. New Hampshire is the leading exporter of high school graduates in the country and invests the least in the nation in state support for higher education.

6a. Do you support increasing state funding for New Hampshire's public university and community college system if it means lower tuition?

YES  NO  
Comments: State schools should not be coercively funded, Turn ownership of existing institutions to its staff and retirees.

6b. Do you support increasing state scholarship dollars and implementing targeted education loan forgiveness programs to help ease the debt of working families and attract young graduates to stay and work in New Hampshire?

YES  NO  
Comments: Scholarships should be consensually funded, not funded through coercion.